

DATE: April 3, 2006

TO: Interested Delta Stakeholders

FROM: Linda Fiack, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Request for Input on Proposed Concept and Process for a “California Delta Trail” System

Recent legislation introduced by State Senator Tom Torlakson, Senate Bill 1556, provides for the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) to begin a planning process for the creation of a “Great California Delta Trail.”

The Great California Delta Trail is a concept for a 1,000 mile recreational corridor through the wondrous Delta region. Inspired by the successful San Francisco Bay Trail which loops around almost 500 miles of Bay waterfront, this trail would link communities and their recreational and tourist attractions, including parks, trails, water trails and historical sites. The Trail would be an incredible opportunity to introduce more Californians and Delta residents to the beauty, history and fragility of our California Delta system.

The role of facilitating such a process is consistent with the provisions of the Delta Protection Act and the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta calling for the preservation and enhancement of the agricultural, habitat, and recreational resources of the unique Delta environment.

While acknowledging the creation of a recreation corridor for promoting local and regional appreciation of the Delta would provide recreational and habitat enhancement opportunities, Senator Torlakson and the Commission recognize the importance of engaging local and state stakeholders and leaders. To assure the success of a stakeholder-driven process that takes into consideration the various perspectives represented in the Delta right from the beginning, the Commission has initiated a series of forums of discussion with a focus in the following areas of interest: recreation and environment; agriculture; private landowners and industry; and local planning entities.

As an integral contributor to the recreation and environmental community of the Delta, your participation is requested in an upcoming meeting to hear more information about the proposed legislation and trail concept, and to provide your thoughts as to how the planning and development of such a trail should be crafted to assure successful collaboration.

Having already had a meeting with a focus on agricultural interests, a meeting with a focus in the areas of recreation and environmental enhancement will take place from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2006 at the Auditorium in Courtland, located at 146 Primasing Avenue, Courtland, CA 95615.

I look forward to us working together to explore and develop this wonderful opportunity to grant the unique recreational, habitat, and agricultural resources of the Delta the recognition and appreciation they deserve and to promote responsible stewardship by those who live, work and play in the Delta community.